A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, April 9. 1709.

IF any Man thinks amiss of my telling you in one of my last, how useful the *French* Power has been in *Europe* to pull down the exorbitant Greatness of other Princes, let them examine the two following Heads, and object what they can——— 1. This is a full Answer to the Objection of the *German* Greatness, as a Thing to be fear'd; at this Time let us but reduce *France* to its true Pitch of Power, such as may effectually secure us from Fear on that side; That same *France* will then be a Security for, and assistant to us against the over-growing Power of any other Potentate— And 2. This is a true Reason why the Power of *France* should be reduc'd, *viz.* That they may with Safety be taken into the Intereſt of *Europe* again; for as they are now, it is plain, 'tis not to be done.

I told you, Exorbitant Power is the Monster we are in Pursuit of; let us see whence she comes, and what Kind of a Beast she is, for without doubt she is of a strange Heterogeneous Off-spring——

When Pride, a self-begetting Species, had swell'd with its own injected Filth, impregnate by some Infernal Warmth from the antient Tophet, *and therefore calling Satan Father*, tho' of Truth her self old as Angels, and older than Hell——— At the first Birth the seeming Mischief brought forth two Bastards, *Ambition* and *Usurpation*; and these again generating with their Sire, each of them conceiv'd a part; *Ambition*

bition brought forth *Tyranny*, and *Uſurpation Conqueſt*—— Theſe laſt, after having been ſeparately the Parents of innumerable Plagues to Mankind, by a myſterious conjunct Conception, and by like Infernal Generation, brought forth this Heterogeneous Birth, we are now ſpeaking of, call'd *Exorbitant Power*——— She was no ſooner ſpawn'd, but ſhe rang'd about the World feeding and fatning her ſelf with the Liberties and the Wealth of Nations, till at laſt ſhe grew ſo exorbitantly great, ſo deform'd and ſo formidable, that whole Kingdoms ſtarted at her Figure, were frightned with her firſt Appearance, and run trembling together to find out Means to ſuppreſs her—— For ſome Ages of the World the People ingulphed in Bondage, and blind Subjection to Monarchy, found no Remedy againſt the Ravages of this wild Creature. The Reaſon was plain, for moſt of the Monarchs of the Earth beginning by Infernal, not Divine Right, were in League with this Devil, as a moſt neceſſary Miſchief, either to aſſiſt their inſupportable Cruelties, and ſubject the World to their Arbitrary Luſt of Rule, or elſe as a Foil to illuſtrate and ſet off their leſſer Deformities, and excuſe their other Brutalities.

Thus Exorbitant Power rang'd over the World for above 700 Years, under the firſt Race of Monarchs, till Nature dictating Safety to the Nations, and the Luſt of Tyrants growing intollerable, the Eyes of Reaſon open'd, and the People ſaw, Liberty was their Due by Nature, and they had an Original Right to it—— Then *Arbaces* and *Belochus* with 400000 Men taking Arms, depos'd *Sardanapalus*, and founded the *Medean* and *Perſian* Empires, under Laws and Regulations conſiſtent with common Safety, and built upon the Ruins of the *Aſſyrian*—— Now, for ſome Ages, the Beaſt, we ſpeak of, *Exorbitant Power*, ſeem'd driven out of Human Reach——— Till the Two well-ballanc'd Governments of *Medea* and *Perſia* joyning again in *Darius*, the Monſter appear'd again, but was ſoon unkennell'd by the *Macedonian*——— And yet *Alexander* had been in ſome Danger of harbouring her again, had he not quickly dy'd, and left the ſubdu'd World to the Partition of his great Officers, who by ſharing the Exorbitant Extent of his Empire into Four, ſecur'd the People from the Miſchief that might have follow'd——— Exorbitant Power ſhifted Hands then to *Rome*, and there ſhe grew up to a horrid Magnitude; all the Nations of the World felt the Weight of her Paws, and ſuffer'd under her unſatiable Fury; mighty Kingdoms were laid waſte by her ravenous Brood, the *Carthaginian*, *Macedonian*, *Syrian*, *Perſian*, the *Gauls*, *Britains*, *Belgians*, *Helvetians*, *Jews*, *Ægyptians*, *Tyrians*, and a vaſt Number of People, Tongues, Kindreds, and Nations, ſunk under her lawleſs, devouring Violence; and in ſhort, the whole World was for a great many Ages trampled upon, ravag'd, and depopulated by the Excurſions of this wild Beaſt.

Till at laſt grown fat, and gorg'd with Blood, her own Whelps, the ſpurious Offſpring of her Luxury and Greatneſs, falling out among themſelves, they ripp'd open the Bowels of their Mother, fed on her Vitals, made themſelves fat with her luſcious Moiſture, and left her Carkaſs to be torn to pieces by the *Goths*, *Vandals*, *Parthians*, *Greeks*, *Franks*, *Germans*, *Picts*, and all the Nations out of whoſe Ruins, and at whoſe Expences, ſhe had grown ſo great.

Theſe, grown wiſe by Experience, erected Nature's Laws of Liberty upon, and plac'd them ſuperior to the Luſts of Princes, ſharing the Rights and Powers of Government among the Society, *viz.* between the Governing and the Governed, impoſing Laws and Limits to Sovereigns, which whenſoever they exceeded, it became the Right of Subjects to diſpute with them, and depoſe them; and accordingly upon this Foundation Kings ſubmit to give a new Sort of Aſſurance to their People, call'd *Coronation Oaths*, a Thing till then unknown to the World—— Theſe were the *Pacta Conventa*, or Claims of Right of the People, on Condition of which they ſubmitted to be govern'd by ſuch and ſuch Perſons, and on the Breach of which they frequently, being over ridden, caſt their Riders, and trampled down their Tyrants.

Juſtice having thus gotten above Tyranny, and Law obtain'd the juſt Due, Right, Superiority over the Crown, all the Nations wiſely

wisely revolving the Miseries that Usurpation and Invasion had brought upon Mankind; nay, their very Kings concurring, found by just Observation, that all proceeded from the Insinuation of this Golden headed Monster, EXORBITANT POWER. They found it by sad Experience, that

Nature has left this Tincture in the Blood,
That all Men would be Tyrants if they could;
If they forbear their Neighbours to devour,
'Tis not for Want of Will, but Want of Power.

To prevent therefore the Eternal Confusions, which Ambition and Pride would keep the World continually agitated by, they drew this Consequence from the whole, and which pass'd for an uncontroverted Maxim ever since, among all the Politicks of *Europe*, *viz.* That to preserve the publick Peace of this Part of the World, A BALLANCE OF POWER should be maintain'd among all the several Monarchies, Common-Wealths, and Governments of Christendom —And thus *Exorbitant Power*, the horrid Monster we have been talking of, has been shut out, and banish'd Human Society in these Parts for several Ages.

It remains now to examine, what Attempts this Child of Hell has made to return among us—And how industriously the Devil has been assistant to that Return; for Slavery and Subjection has been one of the Darlings of Hell, by which he has found his Infernal Kingdom has encreas'd in the World.

And therefore the Phantastick Doctrine of the Divine Right of Princes has been most industriously supported by the Devil in the World—And Tyrants have endeavour'd on the other hand to be first worshipped, that they might with the more Ease bring their People to such a blind Obedience, as their usurp'd Authority requir'd— This is apparent in the early Days of Tyranny, when the Devil and *Ninus* made the great Compact between Tyranny and Idolatry, introducing them hand in hand into the World. *Ninus* giving the Devil the Compliment of Idolatry, in Deifying his Father *Belus*, and building Temples and Altars to him in *Nineveh*; and the Devil complimenting *Ninus* in giving him the Homage of a Tyrant from his Altars, and making Religion concur in instructing the People in a blind absolute Subjection to him——— This is an excellent Genealogy for the *Jus Divinum* of Monarchy, and the fartherst Piece of Antiquity the Champions of it can retreat to; for all before was Patriarchal or Paternal.

This absolute Tyranny being one of the *Ambo-Dexter* Progenitors of *Exorbitant Power* as above; the same Natural Justice that depos'd the first, has exploded the last; and now the Powers of *Europe* have brought it to a Point, *viz.* That it is absolutely necessary for the Peace of Human Society, that this monstrous ungovernable Beast of Prey, call'd *Exorbitant Power*, shall be no more admitted into any Part of the Government of Mankind; no Nation, no Prince is to be permitted to harbour her, much less to receive her into their Councils, and nourish, propagate, and encourage her; and if any presume to break this great receiv'd Axion of publick Good, the adjacent Powers are bound by the great Law of Safety to joyn, confederate, struggle and fight to remove her, and never give over, till they have brought the said Prince or Nation to dismiss and disown her.

Since the Dissolution of the *Roman* Empire as aforesaid, no extraordinary Attempts had been made for the receiving and harbouring this venomous Creature——— *Charlemain* was the only Prince that was suspected, having obtain'd the Empire of *Germany*, Kingdoms of *France*, *Spain*, &c. —But he was really a good Man in the first Place, and entertain'd no such foolish ambitious Thoughts, as universal Domination usually puts into the Heads of Men of Pride——— The Emperor *Charles* V. was the next who laid the Foundation of *Exorbitant Power*, and left it to his Posterity, and they indeed prosecuted it with Violence and Oppression sufficient, as *Philip* II. upon his Subjects of the *Netherlands*, and *Ferdinand* II. Emperor of *Germany*, upon the Liberties of *Germany*.

But acccording to the receiv'd Maxim above, the rest of *Europe* immediately leagu'd against